

GOD AND CREATION

If you have a Bible read Genesis chapter 1.

The first book of the Bible is called 'Genesis'. This name means 'beginning' and the book tells us of the beginning of God's creation. It is important to remember that it does not tell us of the beginning of God himself. The Bible teaches us that God existed before the world was made. He had no beginning. He will have no end.

Psalm 90:2

'Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.'

In the beginning, God created the world in six steps on six days. Each step began with a command from God. This command was given to the angels. They had power from God to make the earth and all the creatures on it. Look at what God said on the first day.

Genesis 1:3

'And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light'.

At the end of each day, God looked at what he had created and was pleased with it.

Genesis 1:4

'God called the light "day", and the darkness he called "night". And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness'.

God made man and woman on the sixth day, after he had prepared the earth for them. They were different from the rest of God's creation. They were made 'in the image and likeness of God.'

They were made with the ability to understand the Word of God. God made people with this understanding of him for a special purpose.

Genesis 1:26

'Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'

Man and woman were made by God to look after all the earth, which he had just completed.

The first man was called Adam, and the first woman was called Eve. They were made in different ways. This is the way in which God made Adam.

Genesis 2:7

'The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.'

The words 'living being' are exactly the same as the words 'living creatures' in Genesis 1:21 and 1:24. There the words are used to describe the fishes and the animals God made. Sometimes the word 'soul' is used in the Bible when talking about man or woman. It simply means something which has life given to it by God.

When God made Adam, he said that the job of looking after the earth was too much for Adam on his own, he needed help. None of the animals were suitable to help him in this work. Unlike Adam, they did not have an understanding of God and his purpose. So God made woman, she was the only one who could help Adam to do God's work.

Genesis 2:20

'So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.'

'So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.'

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman', for she was taken out of man."

This was the very first marriage in the Bible. It sets out the principles of marriage for men and women for all time and in every country. Adam and Eve were brought together to do God's work. This is the reason why we are given to each other; to help our husband or wife as a believer in Almighty God. It was a solemn occasion. God brought Eve and presented her to Adam as his bride.

Notice that Adam was given only one wife. He did not need any more than one to do God's work. Later on some men ignored this teaching and took many wives. This was never part of God's plan. On the sixth day, after God made Adam and Eve and after he brought them together in marriage, the Bible says that;

Genesis 1:31

'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.'

So man and woman were created for a special purpose. God made them to look after all he had made. He commanded them to keep it 'very good' for him. They were given just one part of the earth to look after, the Garden of Eden. However, God told them 'to fill the earth and subdue it'. They were to have children and to send them out of the Garden to live in other parts of the earth. Their children were to be brought up to know and honour God. The plan of God was that the whole earth would eventually be filled with people who worshipped him and kept his laws.

Adam and Eve had to learn what pleased God and what he wanted from them in their daily lives. God gave them everything necessary for a happy and successful life. However, it was important that they never forgot that God was the one who made them. They had to obey him and keep his commandments. When they did this, they honoured him as their creator. It is when we obey God and keep his commandments that we honour and worship him.

God gave Adam one law to keep. When he obeyed it, he pleased God.

Genesis 2:16

'And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Just like us, Adam had the choice to obey or disobey God. When he obeyed him, he honoured God's law and pleased him and God rewarded him with life.

Sadly, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. The curse of death came upon them and they died. We are all the descendants of Adam and Eve. Like them we have all disobeyed God, or sinned. Like them we will all die for our sins. The only escape from death is through the Lord Jesus Christ and we will learn more about him in the following lessons.

Questions

- 1 What is the first book of the Bible called?
- 2 What did God create last of all?
- 3 What were the first man and the first woman called?
- 4 Why were the first man and the first woman different from the animals?
- 5 What was the first law that God gave to man?
- 6 What happened to the first man and woman when they disobeyed God?